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**Dumont Shade Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Dumont Senior Center, Monday, January 14, 2013 7:30pm**

Sunshine Law: The Dumont Shade Tree Commission has complied with the open public meeting act, having sent notice to The Record, Ridgewood news and filed with the Municipal Clerk and posted on the Borough's Official Bulletin Board

**Present:**, Ray Slaman, Abbie Slaman (arrived 8:15pm), Tom Fisichella, Sally Tayeb, Larry Tobias, Council Liaison Bill Brophy

**Guests:** Tara Barker, Kathy Sheridan Parrish, Joe Uhlich CTE

**Absent:** Ryan Metz

- 1- Motion to approve the previous December meeting minutes by Tom and second by Ryan. All approve.
- 2- **Tree maintenance/management.** Discussion; Tom presented 2012 details; lost trees, trims, and DPW activities. 2012 saw significant improvements over previous years. Excellent coordination with DPW. Discussion of post-Sandy activities and the impact of major storms on town trees. Discussion of reaching a level of tree replacement greater than trees lost in the coming years.
- 3- **New members** discussion and membership drive options.
- 4- **DSCT seminar** scheduled for 1-28-13 at the Senior Center 7:30pm. Joe Uhrich Certified Tree Expert (CTE) will lead presentation. He will prepare and present topics for tree maintenance and safety, particular to severe weather events. He will present the 5 signs of tree problems, discuss tree maintenance, and best practices for healthy tree-scape. Rob Gillies CTE has also been invited as guest speaker and he will cover the topic – right tree right location and how to identify common species. He will also discuss healthy tree practices.  
The commission agreed to prepare hand-outs and other material for the seminar: Adopt-a-tree, ISA literature, NJTF literature, and prepare display panels for the event. Discussed and agreed to distribute notices at local business, D'Angelos in particular, as well as emailing DSTC list. Snacks, coffee, baklava, and hospitality will be divided among the members and expenses to be reimbursed.
- 5 **Email list** discussed updating and consolidating contact lists.
- 6 **Friends of the Shade Tree** progress has been stalled. Ryan has the final paperwork but has not attended the past several meetings. Agree to reach out to Ryan and close the process for FSTC.
- 7 **Non-profit seminar** at Paramus Ikea– Larry will represent the DSTC at this seminar and report back about best practices and how to make FSTC a success. Cost of \$100 was deemed reasonable and approved by voice vote.
- 8 **DPW appreciation lunch.** DSTC members agreed to sponsor a luncheon for DPW members and Carolyn in appreciation for their tree work and support of DSTC. Scheduled for February 14. Ray will confirm with Bill Ebenhack if the date is convenient. Tara will bake cupcakes. Donation from individual members and not part of DSTC expense.
- 9 **Permit for Removal of Trees recommendation:** DSTC will like to draft an ordinance for requirement for permit for removal all trees to avoid misunderstanding in regards to

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town tree versus private tree issues. This will bring a formal process to the removal of trees in Dumont. This will avoid town trees from been removed without approval from the Shade Tree. The Shade Tree will certify if it is a town tree or not. Private trees could be removed after it is determined that the tree in question is not a town tree. Will also bring guidelines for removal, which is good for Dumont and value for the town. Permit charges to be discussed. Ways to inform residents on new ordinance was discussed if ordinance passes. Landscapers, arborists, and insurance companies will be notified. A letter could be sent when the Tax Bill Notification is mailed. Building Dept. will enforce the new regulations. Ray will work with Councilman Brophy to draft the ordinance.

- 10 **I-Tree** report and update from Larry – 1,000 trees in the database; a significant milestone. Discussed urban forest characteristics and using the power of I-tree to coordinate new plantings, etc.
- 11 **Community outreach program** discussed– welcome wagon plan will be led by DSTC and incorporate other town groups and organizations. More follow up next meeting.

Adjourned 9:10pm